

3

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

(11 & 12 Vict. Cap. 63.)

East Vale

R E P O R T

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

INTO THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, SUPPLY OF
WATER, &c. OF THE INHABITANTS

OF THE PARISH OF

CAVERS WALL,

IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

By ALFRED L. DICKENS, Esq., C.E.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



L O N D O N :

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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1858.

NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give Notice, in terms of section 9 of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 24th day of May, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, Supply of Water, &c. of the Inhabitants of the Parish of CAVERSWALL in the County of Stafford; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed thereto.

By order of the Board,

T. TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

Whitehall, 20th April, 1858.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1848.

Preliminary Inquiry, March, 1858,
Alfred L. Dickens, Esq^r. C.E. Superintending Inspector.

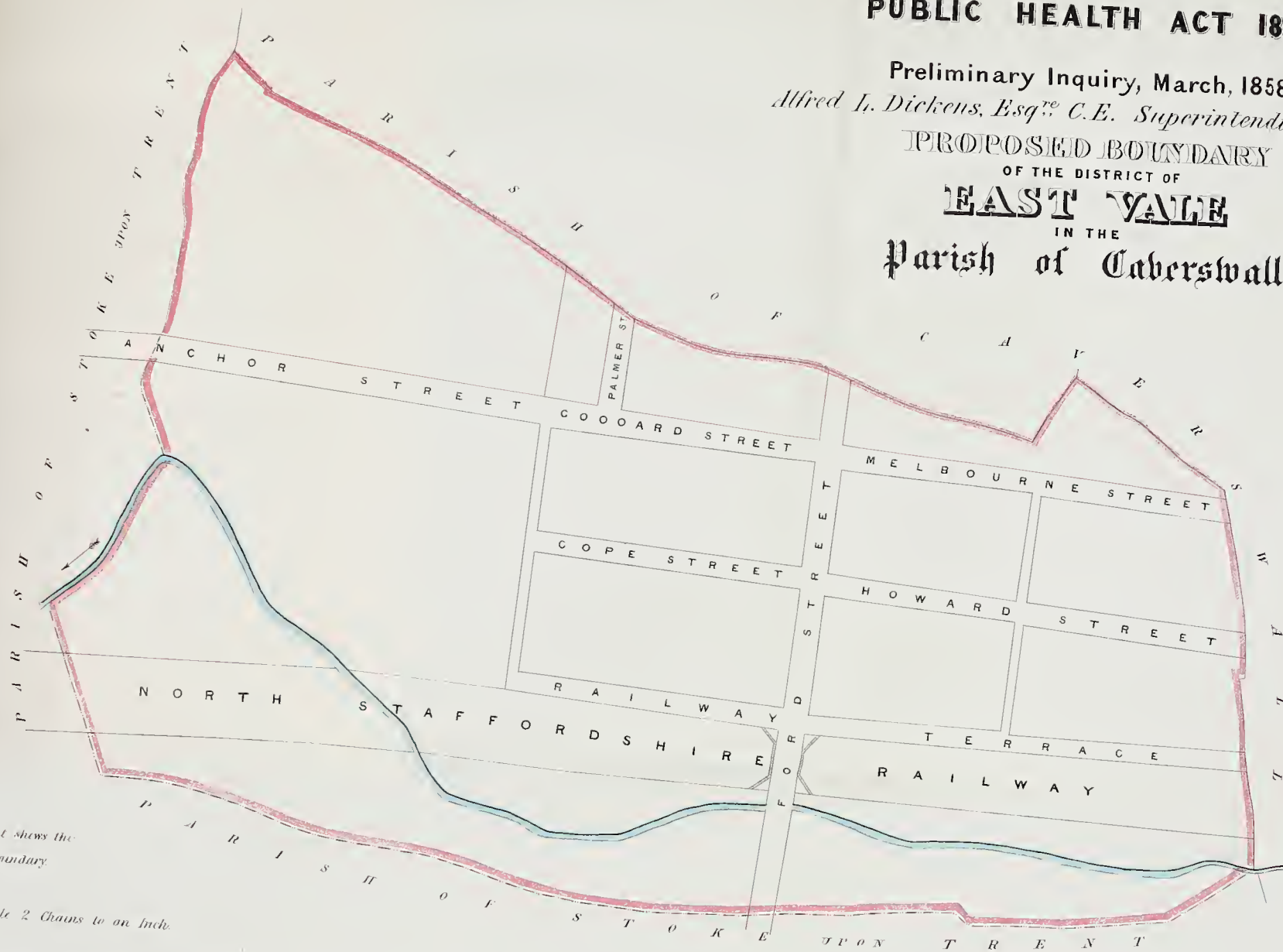
PROPOSED BOUNDARY

OF THE DISTRICT OF

EAST VALE

IN THE

Parish of Caberswall.



The Red tint shows the
proposed Boundary.

Scale 2 Chains to an Inch.

T Forrester,
Surveyor,
Loughton.



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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.)

CAVERS-
WALL.

Report to the President of the General Board of Health on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, Supply of Water, &c., of the Inhabitants of the Parish of CAVERSWALL, in the COUNTY OF STAFFORD. By ALFRED L. DICKENS, Esq., C.E., Superintending Inspector.

SIR,

Whitehall, 11th March 1858.

A PETITION signed by more than one-tenth of the whole number of ratepayers* of the parish of Caverswall in the county of Stafford, having been presented to the General Board of Health, praying for an inquiry under the Public Health Act, 1848, I had the honour of receiving instructions from the late President of the Board to proceed with such inquiry in the usual form. Accordingly I caused the ordinary notices to be issued, and I fixed Thursday, the 3rd instant, at 12 o'clock at noon, at the Terrace Hotel, East Vale, in the parish of Caverswall, as the time and place for proceeding with the inquiry. Copies of the notice were inserted in *The Staffordshire Advertiser*, February 6th, 1858, and *The Staffordshire Sentinel, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Midland Counties Advertiser* of the same date.

There were present at the inquiry the following gentlemen:—G. Robinson, Esq., solicitor, of Longton, who appeared for the promoters of the inquiry; Samuel Bridgewood, Esq.; Francis Davis, Esq., agent to the Hon. — Jervis, a considerable landowner in the parish of Caverswall; Messrs. John Beech; William Marson, overseer; William Lawson; John Sutton; John Hartshorn; Thomas Child, secretary to the Board of Highways of East Vale; James Lees; John Mill; James Mayer, and several others.

* The following certificate was appended to the Petition:—"I, William Marson, assistant overseer of Hardwicke in Caverswall, collector of rates within the parish of Caverswall, do hereby certify that the number of persons rated to the relief of the poor within the parish of Caverswall, from which place the above Petition professes to come, amounts to six hundred and twenty; and that all persons, amounting to sixty-six, whose signatures are subscribed to the said Petition, are rated to the relief of the poor within the district of Caverswall.
(Signed) "WILLIAM MARSON."

Mr. *Child* proved, that copies of my notice had been affixed at all those places where notices relating to public matters within the parish of Caverswall are usually posted.

G. Robinson, Esq., stated,—

“Although the petition had emanated from the whole parish of Caverswall, it was only intended at the present time to ask for the application of the Public Health Act, 1848, to such portion of that parish as formed a district called East Vale. This place has sprung up since the census of 1851 was taken, and it was not therefore, to be found in that census as a place having any defined boundary. The whole population of the parish of Caverswall (which includes Weston Coyney and Hulme) in 1851 was 1,581, while at the present moment it was estimated that in East Vale alone, which formed but a very small area of the parish, there was a population close upon that number. He admitted the area to which it was wished to apply the Public Health Act was small and that the rateable value was also necessarily small; but to increase the proposed area for the application of the Act, at the present time, would be to incur unnecessary opposition; while, if it was not impossible, he thought, to have the district extended to the place increased.”

I explained, that under the 141st section of the Public Health Act, 1848, the General Board of Health had the power of altering or extending a district fixed by a provisional order, &c.

Samuel Bridgewood, Esq., *Mr. John Sutton*, *Mr. John Beech*, and others, corroborated *Mr. Robinson's* statement and said,—

“That the desire of having the Public Health Act applied to East Vale, small as the place was, was general.”

Francis Davis, Esq., stated,—

“That the Hon. Mr. Jervis, and, he believed, other large proprietors, including Major Coyney, the lord of the manor, were desirous that the Act should be applied to East Vale; but he was of opinion, if the district was to be extended at the present time to land situated beyond East Vale, and not yet built upon, there would be a serious opposition to the application of the Act to any part of the parish of Caverswall at all.”

Mr. Robinson said,—

“It was understood, when the petition was got up, that the Act should only be applied to East Vale.”

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THAT PART OF THE PARISH OF CAVERSWALL CALLED EAST VALE.

Caverswall is a parish and township in the hundred of Totmonslow, in the union of Cheadle, and county of Stafford.

It adjoins the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent and the town of Longton. It is about 150 miles from London. The population of the whole parish was :—

In 1801	-	-	-	756
1831	-	-	-	1,207
1841	-	-	-	1,505
1851	-	-	-	1,581

East Vale is situated in the western corner of the parish, and is a place consisting of a few streets only. It has been built within the last five or six years, and it is estimated, at the present time, contains a population of about 1,300 persons. The inhabitants are principally employed in the neighbouring potteries and mines.

Mr. *Robinson* states,—

“ That in the year 1851, John E. Heatheote, Esq., lord of the manor of Longton, was the proprietor of the lands now the site of East Vale, as sought to be brought under the Health of Towns Act. In the conveyances of the same to Messrs. Burley and Cope and others, and from Messrs. Burley and Cope to the small purchasers under them, no restrictive clauses were introduced promotive of the sanitary condition of the place, except as to width of streets. East Vale being contiguous to Longton, and in another parish in which the poor and other rates were exceedingly light, the land was eagerly bought up, and a considerable population soon located on it; and until the slight improvements, since effected, were made by the Board of Highways, the place was in a most deplorable condition, and hence originated the desire for local improvement and local management.”

East Vale may be said to consist of eight streets, viz., Anchor Street, Melbourne Street, Cope Street, Howard Street, Railway Terrace East, Railway Terrace West, Ford Street, and Palmer Street. The North Staffordshire railway runs through the place nearly at its lower boundary. The streets have been partially paved and sewered, and the works have been paid for, partly by subscriptions raised among the proprietors, partly by rate, and partly by money borrowed by the Board of Highway Surveyors on their own personal security.

I gathered from Mr. *John Sutton* and others the following particulars, with reference to the sewers already executed, &c.:—

Railway Terrace East.—This street is drained by a nine-inch pipe, which is laid sufficiently deep to take the cellar drainage. This drain, like all the others, as there are no water-closets in East Vale, takes the drainage from sinks

and yard drains only. No provision is made for its taking the street rain water.

Railway Terrace West.—There is no regular sewerage here, but there is a drain which on sufferance empties through another drain belonging to the North Staffordshire Railway Company into a pond belonging to the Messrs. Bridgewood. This is much complained of by those gentlemen as it pollutes the water for their manufacturing and engine purposes. Fever occurred in a house here, and it was stated to me that the medical attendant attributed it entirely to the drain, which was untrapped.

Howard Street.—There is a six-inch pipe here draining four houses. It is about fifty yards long, and deep enough for present purposes.

Cope Street.—There is a circular culvert here one foot eight inches in diameter; it extends the whole length of the street, and is deep enough for all purposes.

Melbourne Street.—There is a private drain in this street four inches in diameter. An acknowledgment of 5s. per house (about four houses are drained) is paid to the Highway Board for the use of their outfall. Another portion of the street is drained by a six-inch pipe, and the outfall is through some private property into the drain in Railway Terrace. No acknowledgment is paid for this. Nothing is allowed to flow into this drain but surface water from the yards, &c.

Goddard Street.—There is a brick sewer in this street one foot eight inches in diameter; it is from six to nine feet deep, and is capable of draining the lowest cellars. The whole street is sewered.

Continuation of *Goddard Street (Anchor Street)*. There are about twenty houses here wholly unsewered. Indeed there is no drainage to them at all. They cannot be drained without passing through private property. In those cases where there are cellars, the water remains in them in consequence of the want of drainage, and becomes very offensive.

Ford Street.—This is the main cross street, and along it is built the main outfall sewer, one foot eight inches in diameter. It empties into the brook below. This brook eventually falls into the river Trent, not far from Trentham.

PAVING, LIGHTING, &c.

The streets are paved, with few exceptions. The paving is "dust brick," and the channels are of best "blue brick."

There are no public lights. The Stoke Gas Company have their mains laid down, and supply private lights. The charge per 1,000 cubic feet is 4s. 6d.

The Stoke and Longton Gas Company have now a bill before Parliament which, if passed, will give them the power of laying mains, &c., within the parish of Caverswall. At present the mains are only laid by permission.

WATER SUPPLY.

The houses are all supplied with water from the works of the Staffordshire Potteries Waterworks Company. The supply is direct from the pipes, and is constant during the daytime. It is off at night, and occasionally for an hour or two during the day for repairs, &c.

Mr. *Bridgewood* states,—

“The quality of the water, he considers, is above the average supplied to towns generally, and the consumers are very well satisfied with it.”

Mr. *Francis Davis* states,—

“The charge for water-rent is 5 per cent, on the rack-rent.”

Mr. *Robinson* states,—

“The minimum charge is 6s. per house.”

BURIAL GROUNDS.

There is one burial ground in the parish of Caverswall, about three and a half miles from East Vale. The greater number of interments from East Vale take place at Longton, in the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent, which is only about a quarter of a mile off. The ground at Caverswall is very full, and much complaint is made of it. Nothing has yet been done under the Burials Act to remedy this evil.

NUMBER OF THE INHABITANTS, &c.

The population of East Vale only, as I have already stated, is estimated at the present time at about 1,300. In 1851 there were 280 houses altogether in Caverswall; now there are 247 in East Vale alone, none of which were included in the above number of 280.

The following return of mortality in East Vale for the four years, 1853–6 inclusive, is from the office of the Registrar-General:—

RETURN of the NUMBER of DEATHS entered in the Registers as having occurred at EAST VALE, in the Parish of Caverswall, Staffordshire, in each of the Four Years 1853 to 1856.*

Place or Hamlet.	Deaths.				
	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	In the Four Years.
East Vale - - -	21	20	25	26	92

Note.—The above numbers must not be received as representing the deaths within any definite limits, but simply those described as having occurred at “East Vale,” a place most probably without recognized boundaries.

(Signed) THOMAS MANN, Chief Clerk.

Mr. *Marson* states, —

“That until the somewhat imperfect improvements in the drainage were carried out, East Vale was commonly afflicted with sickness, principally fever. In 1857 there were only twenty deaths, or six less than in the preceding year. In 1854 there were also twenty deaths, but the population has materially increased since that time. There are cases of fever at the present time, but they are almost exclusively in Anchor Street, which is completely undrained.

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

There are no local Acts of Parliament in force within the parish of Caverswall. The Staffordshire Potteries Water-

* From the accompanying figures (only just received, March 30), it will be observed that the mortality of the *whole parish of Caverswall* for seven years, 1851–57, is very high indeed, the average to 1,000 persons living being no less than 30·5.

RETURN of the Number of Deaths in the Parish of CAVERSWALL (Staffordshire) in the Seven Years, 1851–57, and of the Average Annual Mortality to 1,000 of the Population.

Population.		Deaths.							In the Seven Years, 1851–57.	Average Annual Mortality to 1,000 living.
1841.	1851.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.		
1,505	1,581	22	33	50	72	50	60	51	343	30·5

In calculating the annual rate of mortality a correction has been made for increase of population, on the assumption (in the absence of any better data) that the increase since 1851 has been at the same uniform rate as was observed between 1841 and 1851.

(Signed) GEORGE GRAHAM,
Registrar General.

works Company is incorporated by a private Act of Parliament. The Sandon and Leek, and the Hanley and Bucknall turnpike trusts are both within the parish.

HIGHWAYS.

The highways in East Vale have been, and are at the present time, kept distinct from the rest of the parish, and are maintained by the ratepayers of East Vale themselves. This arrangement was made with the sanction of the highway authorities of the parish generally.

DRAINAGE AREAS.

The area of that part of the parish of Caverswall comprising East Vale is estimated at about 19A. 1R. 23P.; the whole of that area has its natural drainage into a brook called the Anchor Brook. The brook does not form the boundary of Caverswall parish, as there is a small area of the parish on the western side of it. It has been partially covered, and affords an excellent outfall for the drainage.

THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES, &c.

Caverswall is a parish including the townships of Caverswall and Weston Coyney with Hulme. The area is stated in the census to be 5,300 statute acres; but Mr. Marson gives it at 5,261A. 2R. 29P. These figures are taken from the parish survey of 1840.

BOUNDARIES TO BE ADOPTED.

It was the unanimous desire of the meeting that the Act at present should only be applied to East Vale proper, which is that portion of the parish of Caverswall already described, and which is delineated on the map accompanying this Report.

The following return was supplied by Mr. Marson :—

CAVERSWALL PARISH.

1857.—Total number of houses in the whole parish - 576

	£	s.	d.
Rateable value of the whole parish, including			
land, mines, &c. - - - - -	12,982	12	8

EAST VALE.

CAVERS-
WALL.

Total length of blue brick sewer constructed
by the Board of Surveyors - - 514 $\frac{3}{4}$ lineal yards.
Cost of ditto :—

	£	s.	d.
Labour - - - - -	61	12	0
Bricks - - - - -	40	13	4
Iron grids - - - - -	9	5	3
9-inch pipes to connect grids with main sewer	5	16	10
Timber in ditto - - - - -	0	9	0
17 sumps for grids at 3s. 6d. each - - - - -	2	19	6
	120 15 11		

Towards the above, owners of property paid	34	3	0
Borrowed on personal security of surveyors	86	12	11
	120 15 11		

Cost of the paving, kerbing, and channelling and levelling
streets :—

	£	s.	d.
Stone kerbs and block stones - - - - -	34	9	10
Railway carriage for ditto - - - - -	20	4	9
Channel bricks - - - - -	39	6	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dust bricks for pavement - - - - -	67	14	7
Labour for ditto - - - - -	64	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sundries - - - - -	6	13	1
	Total - - - 232 12 3		

Owners of property paid for materials; the labour was paid for by money borrowed by the Board of Surveyors on their personal security, and by highway rate.

GENERAL REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

In consequence of the announcement made at the meeting that it was not intended, at present, to ask for the inclusion of any part of the parish of Caverswall beyond East Vale within the jurisdiction of the Local Board of Health, should it be determined to form one, I confined my examination principally to that part of the district only.

The houses are substantially built of brick, with, generally speaking, well-ventilated yards at the back. They are supplied with decent privies which are tolerably well

situated, and if converted into water-closets would be really comfortable and decent. The general falls for drainage are ample, and there are no local causes in existence in East Vale to necessitate works of improvement being costly. Those yards already drained by the sewers constructed by the Board of Surveyors are dry and clean, while those not possessing the same advantage are damp and dirty. Indeed there is a very marked difference in these cases. At "*Newbon's Buildings*" there is no drainage at all except on to the surface in Mr. Bridgewood's land. A very wretched nuisance is thus caused, and which, for want of power, cannot be abated. There are several very comfortable cottages, such as those of Mr. Bridgewood's, which would be very much more so if they were properly drained. In nearly all those cases where the cottages are undrained excellent facilities exist for cheap private drainage. The Board of Surveyors naturally complain, having expended so much money on public works, a good deal of it at their own risk, that they should lack the power of compelling the inhabitants to execute private works, &c. I may mention, as an instance, that in Melbourne Street there is one person who will not pay 6s. 4d. for the kerbing and channelling in front of his house; the improvements effected in the rest of the street are marred in consequence. The same individual persists in throwing his ashes on to the surface in front of the house. The only remedy for this, at the present time, is stated by the surveyors of East Vale to be by the troublesome process of indictment. There is an evident want of some governing body to see to the proper removal of the contents of the ash-pits, &c., nearly all of which are completely full. At the time of my inspection there was, and had been for some days, a very severe frost, which rather modified these nuisances, but they cannot fail to be a source of great danger when exposed to a hot sun in warmer weather. There is a very offensive open ditch or drain on the east side of the proposed boundary, which ought to be done away with. In fact there is little doubt that a local governing body could very materially improve East Vale. The Messrs. Bridgewood, whose premises are partly situated in East Vale, and who are largely rated, are very anxious for the application of the Act.

It is impossible to deny that the area, population, and rateable value of East Vale are small for the formation of a Local Board. As regards the first of these points, it is manifest that a much larger area than that proposed could be included with advantage, and which I pointed out to the gentlemen who accompanied me in a walk round

the district; but they replied, they were exceedingly anxious not to incur opposition which might deprive them of the benefit of the application of the Public Health Act altogether, and they urged on me that they were certain they could work the Act in their small district with considerable advantage, and that the desire for having it applied was so general, they could do so at almost as small cost as they were now at. In a letter I have since received from Mr. Robinson, he says:—

“With regard to the expenses of executing the powers of the Act, it may be observed that there are, as you will doubtless have observed, a number of individuals resident in East Vale capable of discharging the duties of the officers contemplated by it, and who are so interested in the place that they will execute them for very small salaries indeed.”

The proposed boundary takes in the most thickly populated part of the parish of Caverswall, and the inhabitants of East Vale have hitherto been acting entirely for themselves, the only rate they have been paying in common with the rest of the parish being the poor rate. Under these circumstances, and considering the pressing manner in which a large number of the inhabitants of the district most interested in this question have asked for the benefit of the Public Health Act, I think it my duty, after carefully considering the matter, to advise that the Public Health Act, 1848, be applied to East Vale.

At the same time, I would call the attention of the gentlemen who may form the Local Board to the desirability of endeavouring to enlarge their district in such manner as may ultimately be found most desirable. By working the Act in a judicious manner, much opposition to be included under its operation would probably be removed, and the general benefit which local self-government is calculated to confer would be understood.

I have the honour, therefore, of recommending:—

1. That the Public Health Act, 1848, be applied by Provisional Order to so much of the parish of Caverswall, in the county of Stafford, as is shown on the map accompanying this report, and which is called East Vale.
2. That the district so formed be called “The district of EAST VALE, in the county of STAFFORD.”
3. That the Local Board for Health to be formed under the said Public Health Act consist of nine members.

CAVERS-
WALL.

4. That the qualification for membership of the said Local Board of Health be the possession of property, real or personal, or both, to the value of 300*l.*, or rating to the relief of the poor on an annual value of not less than 5*l.* 5*s.*

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED L. DICKENS,
Superintending Inspector.

The Right Hon. Chas. B. Adderley, M.P.,

&c. &c. &c.

President, General Board of Health.

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